GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:801
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2005
SEPARATE MINISTRY FOR DISABLED
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disabled Rights Group, an NGO and several other NGOs in the field of welfare of disables have demanded for a separate Ministry for disabled as reported in the Times of India dated June 23, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; (

(c) whether even after 10 years of enactment of Disabilities Act, 1995, the main demands of access, education and employment for persons with disabilities remain merely on paper; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

(a) & (b): The Disabled Rights Group and one other NGO have demanded that a separate Ministry be created for persons with disabilities. However, there is no proposal to create a separate Ministry for persons with disabilities.

(c) & (d): No, Sir. Various steps have been taken by the Central and State Governments to ensure reservation in Government employment, access to education and creation of barrier free facilities for persons with disabilities. Some of them are as follows:

(i) As against 3% reservation in identified posts in the Government establishments for persons with disabilities, the representation of persons with disabilities in the Central Government is 3.60%

ii) All the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been advised to adopt Model Building bye-laws containing provisions for barrier free facilities for persons with disabilities. Some State Governments and local bodies have already adopted these bye-laws.

iii) 18.53 lakh children with disabilities were identified in 2004-05 of whom 14.22 lakh children have been enrolled in elementary schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

iv) 200 scholarships are provided every year to persons with disabilities for higher and technical education.

v) More than 350 special schools and 140 vocational training centers are imparting special education and vocational training to persons with disabilities.

vi) Approximately, 2.70 lakh poor and needy persons with disabilities are provided aids and appliances free of cost.